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Address for correspondence:

Rutuja Pawar
Assistant Professor, Department of
Commerce and Management,
Savitribai Phule Mahila
Mahavidyalaya, Satara
Email: pawarrutuja935@gmail.com

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A Research Study on Women Empowerment through Technology: A Path to India@2047

Rutuja Pawar

Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce and Management,
Savitribai Phule Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Satara

Abstract

Empowering women is a crucial factor for attaining inclusive growth and sustainable development in India. In recent years, technological progress has become a significant resource for empowering women socially, economically, and politically. This study explores the role of digital technologies like the internet, mobile apps, artificial intelligence, and e-governance systems in enhancing women's empowerment in India. The research emphasizes essential areas such as digital literacy, education, financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, and healthcare. Technology has empowered women, particularly in rural and semi-urban regions, to obtain information, gain skills, and engage in economic activities. Government programs like Digital India, Skill India, and several financial inclusion initiatives have further sped up this change. Yet, even with these improvements, obstacles like the digital divide, insufficient awareness, cultural barriers, and cybersecurity issues still impede advancement. This study employs a qualitative method by examining current literature and evaluating case studies that showcase effective execution of technology-based empowerment programs. The results indicate that with adequate policy backing, infrastructure improvement, and awareness initiatives, technology can significantly contribute to attaining gender equality. The research concludes that enabling women via technology is crucial for achieving the India@2047 vision, where women play a significant role in nation-building and sustainable development.

Keywords: Empowering Women, Technology, Digital India, Financial Inclusion, Online Learning, Sustainability, Social Change, India@2047

Introduction

Women empowerment is a multifaceted idea that focuses on bolstering the social, economic, political, and legal power of women to guarantee equal involvement in all areas of life. In India, women have long encountered challenges like gender inequality, insufficient education, restricted access to resources, and societal limitations, despite constitutional rights and policy support. Nonetheless, the rise of digital technology has opened up new possibilities to surpass these obstacles and foster inclusive development.

In the digital age, technology serves as a driver of transformation by offering access to information, communication, education, and financial services. The extensive utilization of smartphones, internet access, and digital platforms has greatly altered the lives of women, particularly in rural and neglected regions. Women can now acquire new skills via online platforms, engage in remote work, manage digital enterprises, and access government programs without any physical constraints.

Government programs like Digital India, Skill India, and Start-up India have been vital in fostering digital inclusion and boosting women's involvement in economic activities. Furthermore, the emergence of fintech solutions, e-commerce platforms, telehealth services, and online learning systems has enabled women to attain financial independence and social awareness.

Nonetheless, the advantages of technology are not shared fairly. A considerable digital gender disparity persists in India, especially in rural regions where women face restrictions in accessing devices, internet services, and digital literacy. Cultural norms, limited awareness, and cybersecurity issues further limit women's engagement in the digital environment.

Thus, it is crucial to implement a multidisciplinary strategy that integrates technology, policy development, education, and public consciousness to guarantee that women from all societal sectors gain advantages from digital transformation. Empowering women via technology is essential not just for equality but also for attaining sustainable development and fulfilling the vision of India@2047.

Objectives of the Study

- To investigate the impact of technology on enhancing women's empowerment in India
- To examine the effects of digital tools on education and employment for women
- To pinpoint major obstacles in technology uptake by women
- To assess government programs aimed at empowering women
- To propose strategies for improving women's empowerment via technology.

Literature Analysis

Numerous research efforts have emphasized the significance of technology in empowering women. Studies indicate that digital literacy greatly enhances women's access to education and job prospects. Mobile technology and internet availability allow women to engage in economic activities and decision-making processes.

Research on financial inclusion shows that mobile payment systems and digital banking have enhanced women's financial autonomy. E-learning platforms have enabled women to pursue education despite societal limitations.

Nonetheless, various obstacles are present, including insufficient infrastructure, limited digital literacy, gender biases, and cybersecurity concerns. Digital platforms are also avoided by women due to online harassment.

In general, research indicates that technology serves as a significant means of empowerment, yet effective execution and inclusive policies are crucial.

Material and Method

This research relies on a qualitative approach. Information has been gathered from secondary sources including research studies, government publications, academic journals, and web articles.

The research encompasses:

1. Review of existing literature
2. Examination of policies
3. Analysis of case studies

The information is examined to grasp the effect of technology on the lives of women

Case Study

Case Study 1: Digital Literacy Programs in Rural India

In rural India, insufficient digital skills have been a significant obstacle to women's empowerment. To tackle this problem, various governmental and non-governmental entities have initiated digital literacy initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA). These initiatives seek to offer fundamental computer and internet education to women.

In numerous villages, women who were once unfamiliar with smartphones can now utilize online services, connect via messaging applications, and engage with digital payment platforms. This has not only boosted their self-assurance but also allowed them to engage in household decision-making. Certain women have also taken on roles as digital trainers, raising awareness in their communities.

Case Study 2: Women Entrepreneurs through E-commerce Platforms

E-commerce sites like Amazon, Flipkart, and Meesho have created substantial opportunities for female entrepreneurs. Women, particularly those managing households, can now launch small enterprises from their residences without needing significant capital.

For example, numerous women in India have begun marketing handmade goods, apparel, jewelry, and food through social media channels such as WhatsApp, Instagram, and Facebook. These platforms enable them to connect with a broader audience outside their local markets. Consequently, women are earning money, achieving financial autonomy, and enhancing their household economy.

Moreover, programs such as Amazon Saheli directly aid women entrepreneurs through training, marketing assistance, and a platform to display their products worldwide.

Case Study 3: Financial Inclusion through Digital Banking

Digital banking services like Jan Dhan Yojana, mobile banking applications, and UPI have greatly enhanced financial inclusion. Women who once lacked access to banking services can now open bank accounts, save funds, and conduct transactions online.

For instance, women in rural areas are now obtaining government benefits directly in their bank accounts via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). This has lessened reliance on intermediaries and enhanced transparency. Women are increasingly utilizing digital wallets and UPI applications for payments, boosting their financial independence.

Case Study 4: Healthcare Access through Telemedicine

Technology has enhanced healthcare access for women via telemedicine services. In distant regions with few healthcare facilities, women can reach doctors via mobile applications and online platforms.

For instance, expectant mothers can obtain medical guidance, monitor their health status, and find resources regarding nutrition and childcare via digital health apps. This has greatly lowered health hazards and enhanced maternal health results.

Result

The research demonstrates beneficial results:

- Expanded availability of education
- Economic self-sufficiency
- Increase in business ventures
- Improved access to healthcare

Nonetheless, issues such as the digital divide and social obstacles continue to persist.

However, challenges like digital divide and social barriers still exist.

Conclusion

Technology is essential in enabling women and fostering development. It offers opportunities in education, jobs, finance, and healthcare.

Equal access to technology must be guaranteed to realize the goals of India@2047. Government initiatives and educational campaigns need to be enhanced.

Empowering women through technology is crucial for constructing a robust and sustainable India.

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Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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